

# Maraliz Salgado

Instructional Coordinator, Erie Elementary Charter School

## 2018 Surge Fellow

**M**araliz Salgado has dedicated half her life to educating Chicago youth. Since 1997, she has practiced servant leadership in the Humboldt Park community. Subscribing to El Che's notion that "the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love," the people that embraced her since coming from Puerto Rico are her purpose for continuing this work. Maraliz's love of her community has sustained her fight for quality education in its schools, and her love of youth cemented her choice to spend the majority of her career on the front lines, as a classroom teacher.

The daughter of two stellar educators, and among the first bilingual teachers of Chicago, Maraliz always knew she would dedicate her life's work to education. She earned her Bachelor's in Elementary Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago and completed a Master's in Educational Leadership and Administration from Northeastern Illinois University. Knowing her heart was still in the classroom, it would be twelve years before she sought to advocate for change in a broader capacity.

Maraliz's journey as an educator began twenty years ago, in the very same building she works in today, when it was called Roqué de Duprey Elementary. There she taught Middle School Science and Humanities, before moving on to do so at the grammar school from which she graduated, José De Diego Community Academy. She then joined the founding staff at Prieto Math and Science, before settling down at Erie Elementary Charter School, a dual-language school, where she is also a parent. After three years of initiating Erie's first middle school class, Salgado now serves as Instructional Coordinator/Coach to fourth through eighth grade teachers. You will find her these days, facilitating the staff's professional development, providing observation feedback to teachers, and supporting the administration with school-based problem solving.

When she's not coaching middle school teachers, you are likely to bump into Maraliz at a community event, supporting an arts exposé, or screaming her head off at her son's football or daughter's basketball games. You are also likely to see her walking around the neighborhood, exploring options for her school to take advantage of, learning from the community as a campus. And in the summer, you might even catch her on a stage, belting out folkloric, Afro-Boricua centuries-old songs of freedom with fellow musicultural activists.

She keeps her purpose and sanity intact through holding fast to her husband/best friend, César, her two children/students, Moisés and Lorena, as well as through her collaboration with her family of like-minded educators.

